



## 4 Basic Facts when Selecting a Lawyer



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If you are in a situation that you believe demand the services of a lawyer, there are some basic facts you should know.

1. *Your lawyer must be completely loyal to you with no conflicts of interest.* This means he or she must have no competing interests with other persons, including the lawyer's own interests.
2. *Your lawyer must know all the facts of the case - including those which may appear unfavorable to your cause.* Furthermore, they must not disclose those facts to anyone without your consent unless required to do so by law. Your lawyer must keep your confidences. At the same time they must be ethical. So, while he or she may use in your behalf all legitimate means, your lawyer must not resort to illegal or unethical tactics or untruths.
3. *Your lawyer must be licensed to practice law or at least a trainee.* The preparation for such a law license and legal practice requires a great deal of time, hard work and expense. The licensed lawyer must graduate from an accredited law school and must pass the bar examination, a rigid test of knowledge in all fields of law.
4. *You should feel comfortable with your lawyer.* Most people select as their lawyer one whom they have met or is recommended by friends or relatives. When this is not possible, search using online legal directories. However, when the selection is made, you should have confidence in the lawyer who represents you.